



## Our Lady of Guadalupe Personal Consecration

### Small Group Leader Guide

Congratulations on leading a small group through this personal consecration! To follow are simple guidelines and suggestions to help you along the way. Feel free to tailor this guide to your particular group's needs. If you have any questions, you can contact the author, Pam DiMartile at [ourladysovn@gmail.com](mailto:ourladysovn@gmail.com)

The **purpose** of this consecration is putting Jesus at the center of one's life. The **prayer tool** we will be using is to ask Our Lady of Guadalupe to personally lead us into a deeper relationship with her Son so that we may become a more authentically committed disciple of his. This preparation entails setting aside a period of time (15-30 minutes/day) to reflect more intensely on our relationship with God. Who is Jesus to me? Why did He come? What does it matter to me? Am I truly responding to all that God offers me? At the conclusion of the preparation period, the individual makes an act of consecration by reciting a specific prayer of consecration.

The particular tool we will be using for this purpose entails a **nine day period** of spiritual preparation. Each day you are invited to read, meditate and pray along with the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego. On the ninth day, you are invited to pray the **personal consecration prayer**, committing yourself to be an active Catholic and openly sharing your Catholic faith with others.

#### Suggested Guidelines for Leaders:

- Choose the dates your small group will do the consecration preparation together (nine days of reflection/prayer and any extra days to meet as a group if desired), as well as the actual chosen date of consecration.
- Designate a day/time to gather as a group right before the nine days of prayer. You can read the introduction/story together and explain the purpose of this personal consecration (above).
- Make sure each participant has a copy of the consecration prayer tool to use, hard copy booklet or online access via the website: [lightingheartsonfire.org](http://lightingheartsonfire.org) .
- Encourage participants to complete all nine days of prayer/meditation and recommend they go to confession prior to the chosen day of consecration or shortly thereafter.
- Get together as a group before or after Mass to say the consecration prayer together on the 9<sup>th</sup> day (or shortly thereafter), perhaps in front of a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Incorporate other rituals if you like, such as writing out the consecration prayer and signing it, placing roses by the statue of Mary, singing a Marian hymn, or praying the Rosary together.
- If desired, give a small gift to each participant, such as an Our Lady of Guadalupe medal, a Miraculous medal, a picture of Mary or a special rosary.
- Designate a time to get together after the consecration to share in the small group what the consecration has meant to each individual and talk about "what's next?" ("Go and share the Gospel")
- Also, if desired, the group can get together after the consecration to do a service project together, visit a Marian shrine or plant a rosary garden together.